



# FOOTPRINTS

## October 2019

*Newsletter of the Border Bushwalking Club Inc.  
affiliated with Bushwalking Victoria*



### COMMITTEE

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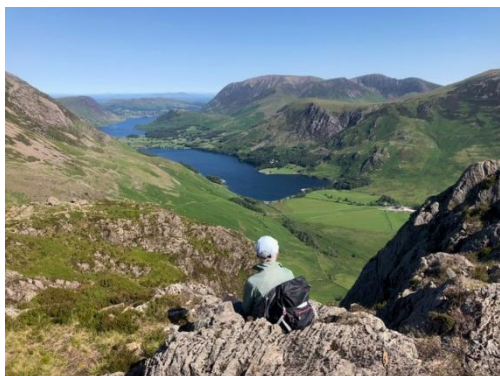
General Committee: **Ralph:** Vice President, **Bernadette:** Activities Coordinator, **Liz:** Newsletter Editor, **Ira:** Meeting Suppers & Social Convener, **Chris:** Equipment Officer, **Marie:** Membership & Data Base Manager, **Ken:** Policy and **Sandy:** our go-to girl.

## CLUB NIGHT

**7:30 TUESDAY OCTOBER 1ST**

## OH, THE PLACES WE'VE BEEN

This club night is a "Show and Tell" of special outdoor activities our members have participated in this year. Some will be of International adventures and others from around Australia. We ask you to email 5 photos to Ralph by this Thursday and on the night give a tiny explanation of why/how these photos mean something special to you. Please find a few photos to contribute to the evening. It's always inspiring and interesting to see where others have been and what took their fancy.



**Where :** Senior Citizens, Meeting Room, Civic Centre Complex, Hovell Street, Wodonga

**Visitors** are always welcome at meetings and supper is served afterwards. **Club Nights** are regularly held on the **first Tuesday** of the month (except December and January) at 7:30pm. The room is opened half an hour before the start so that members may socialise.

[www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au](http://www.borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)

### WELCOME

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Glen Melville**

**Kim Thompson**

We trust that you will enjoy all that the Club and its members have to offer.

### CONTRIBUTIONS TO FOOTPRINTS.

**Your contributions are keenly sought.** If you have been on a club trip please send a short, or indeed long, report to the editor. **Photos** of outings are also greatly appreciated. **Please try to send photos as small files and acknowledge photographer.**

Send to: [newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au](mailto:newsletter@borderbushwalkingclub.com.au)

**Deadline for next Footprints is 22/10/19**

**A huge thank you to all those who submit material.**

### Random acts of kindness.

Brad and I recently rode our bikes across the top of Australia. It was a fantastic experience and leaves us hungering to ride more. While the adventure was awesome, the biggest thing we really took from the trip was the amazing kindness of strangers. Riding a bike in the outback is a bit like walking with a dog - lots of people stop to talk to dogs and also cyclists in weird places.

While most people just drive past, often with a wave, we are always touched by people's kindness. As I rode along towards the end of the trip I quickly counted up 35 acts of kindness but I know there were many more. Lots of people pulled up to ask if we're OK and quite a few went past giving the thumbs up sign as their way of asking if we were alright. Sleeves of strangers were rolled up on the two occasions we had a puncture.

Riding along the very corrugated and isolated section of the Savannah Way a voice from a passing car called out, "We thought we were following bike tracks! You must be crazy! How would you like a real cappuccino?" and so by the side of the road in the middle of nowhere, Brad and I were treated to a magnificent cappuccino. Turns out these people used to make coffee from their van as a living. While we assumed this would be a one off meeting, we were in fact to come across this couple a few times and they offered to do some food and water drops for us. An enormous help. As it turned out, at the eleventh hour about to embark on the next leg of this remote section, cappuccino couple's car broke down. No food or water drop. What to do? Well enter yet another amazingly kind couple of travelers who just pulled into Borroloola at that moment. I asked one if he was heading north to Roper Bar and he said he was so I asked would he mind dropping off our food and some water at the Limmen N.P. ranger station. He said that would be fine. It would only be a 15km detour for them. Well, so I thought, but he was a bit geographically confused because his mate said, "We're only going to Lorella Springs turn off" so a 15km detour became a 100km detour on a very rough road. We said it was too much to ask but they were more than happy to do the detour. Thanks to their kindness an important drop off was sorted.

We arrived some days later at the ranger station and there were our supplies awaiting us. The head ranger gave us a wonderful welcome and was so hospitable. She was excited by what we were doing and offered us showers and the kitchen to make coffee and the washing machine. We loved our showers and the coffee but sitting on a couch was amazing. Same day further up the road at our camp site, four lovely people from Victoria asked us over for some wine. Wow! The next day another car pulled over. Out hopped two very well dressed ladies. I told them we don't pick up hitch hikers. One of the ladies gave us her lunch, a packet of barely sugar and even offered us limes to put in our water. Turns out this was the Administrator of the Northern Territory, (their equivalent to our Governor) and after bravely putting her arms around us (we didn't smell too good), invited us to Government House to take tea with her when we got to Darwin. Over the journey we were given bananas, fish, mandarins, oranges, apples, lollies, cold soft drinks, fruit juice, sandwiches, salami and other groceries, a meal, wine, bottles of frozen water, shade under a caravan awning at the side of the road, icy poles, cake, tea and coffee, a food drop and four water drops. There were more offers for water than I can even recall. When not on our bikes we tend not to talk much to other travelers but we intend to change that. Obviously rocking up somewhere on a bike or riding in remote places is something that draws people to talk to you, but friendly, kind and lovely people are out there in big numbers and we're going to make more of it and get to know them.

Ed. (Standing in for our President is walking overseas).





## TRIP REPORTS

### Last day of winter.

What a beautiful day to be out on the Bogong High Plains. Not a cloud in the sky – lots of packed snow, occasional icy patches and a cool breeze which became a lot cooler and stronger later in the day. A lot more skaters and tourers out enjoying the conditions. Lots of gliding, long downhill runs and some exploratory in the timber. Heathy Spur, Hollands Knob and Mt Nelse and beyond were the go for three of us. Sue.



### First Day of Spring. Glen Creek walk.

The first day of Spring, and Father's Day to boot, ensured for perfect weather for the lucky 13 who ventured out in Glen Creek. With the neighbour's new bull safely in another paddock, we crossed a slightly muddy field and up into the forest. With a bit of huff and puff, we reached our highest point, overlooking the Mudgegonga valley with Mount Buffalo and Mt Stanley in the distance. A welcome descent into the bush followed and we found this off track section more open than usual, with a large number of fallen trees. Morning tea was at an old camp site, maybe left over from the gold rush period, complete with billies and hot plate. Refreshed, we jumped a creek and scrambled up a short steep hill until we reached a 4WD track carpeted with grass and no evidence of recent use. This meandered through the forest with gentle undulations, where we found two creeks needing crossing before settling down for lunch. It then seemed we climbed a lot more up than what we'd descended but the wattle was out, the sky was blue, and before we knew it, we were back at Cafe Scott where refreshments were provided. A lovely day's walking to herald the beginning of the season, thank you to all participants. Pauline.





### High Country Rail Trail near Shelley, Saturday 14 September 2019

Thirteen of us (including 6 non-members, one guide dog for a blind participant, three ex-presidents, and four members ) set off on a magnificent spring day, driving to Edgars Road, near the Koetong pub (which is now closed) where we left one vehicle. All of us climbed into two 4WDs and drove to the former Shelley station which is famous for being the highest in Victoria.

In beautiful sunshine we walked back towards Wodonga on an excellent track surface, mostly through native forest with the wattles in bloom. Not long after lunch we reached our vehicle at the Edgars Road trestle bridge and did the necessary car shuffle to recover our two 4WDs.

A very pleasant day finished with the mandatory coffee stop in Tallangatta. Bruce.



Spot the 3 ex presidents. Well one (Bruce) is taking the photos.





### **Mt Beauty Three Easy Walks**

Six of us met up in Mt Beauty in pleasant spring weather. Two were new members, three had varied injuries but the sixth person was sound in wind and limb, so the pace was going to be gentle. The walks started in the little park adjacent to the Kiewa Valley Highway by the suspension bridge at the entrance to Mt Beauty (turn left at the 'Airport' sign). We parked the cars and set off on the first walk, along a clearly marked path to Pebble Beach. This path follows the west Kiewa River which was high and fast, swollen with snow melt, and there were views up to Mt Bogong, still with quite a bit of snow on it. We returned to the cars by the same route for morning tea, then set off for a circuit of the pondage. This track is very popular with locals and we dodged dogs, joggers, ankle biters on fairy cycles and a swooping magpie. We got to admire many of the town's amenities but decided not to risk further injury by testing out the adventure playground. These two walks together totalled about 5 km and for one of the group that was sufficient, so she amused herself with a book while the others headed off to the gorge walk.

This started with a short walk along the Kiewa Valley Highway, made longer because the leader confused her left with her right, but the error was soon rectified. We crossed the road by the Information Centre and headed up the small road opposite, signposted Gorge Walk. This soon led us onto a footpath beside the river, then a short climb brought us to the suspension bridge over the thundering stream. Once across we walked along the river bank and climbed over a fallen tree, noting the dead possum underneath, before coming to a picnic table at the adit, a remnant of the area's gold mining history. We enjoyed lunch in the sunshine before returning by a similar route, this time going past the Svarmisk apartments and walking through the town back to the cars. Distance for this walk was about 6 km total.

All three walks are on good tracks, well signposted and with minimal climbing, the weather was ideal and the company as good as ever. Eileen.





## NOTICES

**ClimateWatch**  
an initiative of Earthwatch Institute

**Parks**  
VICTORIA  
*Healthy Parks  
Healthy People*

### You're invited

Be fascinated by the alpine environment, take teaching outdoors and contribute to citizen science

Earthwatch Australia and Parks Victoria invite you to participate in the *ClimateWatch in Parks* program and professional learning workshop.

The program connects educators and community groups to the first alpine ClimateWatch trail situated at Lake Catani, Mt Buffalo National Park.

**Free** training will be provided to assist participants in embedding citizen science, climate change and biodiversity monitoring into teaching and engagement activities.

**For information and to RSVP, please complete this form:**  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGSHVHX>

Workshop date: Friday 11 October  
Time: 12:30 - 15:30 (3 hr)  
Venue: Dingo Dell Cafe (including guided walk at Lake Catani)  
Dingo Dell Rd, Mount Buffalo VIC 3740

Afternoon tea, training and curriculum resources provided.  
Contact: Nadiah Roslan [nroslan@earthwatch.org.au](mailto:nroslan@earthwatch.org.au) 0403 935 744  
[bit.ly/cwinparks](http://bit.ly/cwinparks)



An invitation to take part in our [ClimateWatch in Parks](#) program and a free professional learning workshop at **Dingo Dell Café, Mt Buffalo, Friday 11 october.**

The program is a partnership initiative with Parks Victoria, delivering free citizen science and climate change STEM-learning opportunities to the Alpine region.

4 spaces are currently available.

**To find out more please complete the following form:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGSHVHX>

# FESTIVAL OF SHORT WALKS.

Break out of your winter cocoon and celebrate spring at the Festival of Short Walks

The villages of Beechworth, Chiltern, Yackandandah and Rutherglen are stepping it up during the week of 14 – 20 October 2019. An Australian first, the seven day short walks festival features over thirty guided walks and forty self-guided walks, each designed to give you an evocative experience, rich in nature, arts and culture, food and wine, and stories.

For more information visit <https://www.walkhighcountry.com.au/festival-of-short-walks>

## FOR SALE

SOARTD hooded rain jacket, breathable fabric, blue, men's medium size (100 cm chest)  
<https://www.soartd.com/collections/pullovers-jackets/products/global-storm-hooded-jacket>  
Never worn. Will sell for \$150.

LOWE Cholatse 35 litre day pack, adjustable back size, several pockets, optional dual compartments, hydration compatible, rain cover. Only used a few times. Will sell for \$120.

Phone/text for more details or inspect at October meeting. Eileen Clark, 0412 042 195

## TRAVEL COSTS

Travel costs this month: 35cents per kilometre.

Where passengers wish to join enroute and there is a spare space in a car, the leader will determine a fair portion of the total cost as their contribution. If there is no spare seat they will be asked to drive themselves. If they are not prepared to drive an extra car will leave from the starting point and all participants will contribute equally to the total cost.

### AMBULANCE COVER:

**IT IS ADVISABLE YOU ALSO CHECK OUT WHAT YOUR AMBULANCE COVER ACTUALLY COVERS. MEMBERS WHO ONLY HAVE AMBULANCE COVER WITH PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE MAY NEED TO CHECK THE LEVEL AND EXTENT OF SUCH COVER IS SUFFICIENT FOR REMOTE AREAS.**

## WANT TO GO ON A WALK BUT NEED SOME GEAR?

We hire:

- Tents
- Sleeping bags
- Back-packs
- Hiking poles
- Waterproof jackets
- We even have a dehydrator if you want to prepare your own meals (or dry your excess Summer produce)



- And lots more...

## WANT TO LEAD A WALK BUT WORRIED ABOUT SAFETY?

We have the following equipment available for free for any club walk:

- First aid kits
- GPS
- PBLs

Where do I get the gear?

**ADVENTURE GEAR, DEAN ST ALBURY**

### Photo credits this issue:

Ian  
Liz  
Pauline  
Eileen  
Bruce  
Sue



### EVER WONDER WHERE TO GO WALKING?

Bushwalking Victoria has this fabulous walk directory with detailed information on about 200 walks in Victoria.

Check it out by clicking on the link below.

<http://www.bushwalkingvictoria.org.au/walks-directory>



## PHOTOS IN FOOTPRINTS.

Often on walks there will be photos taken of participants. If you **DO NOT** wish your photograph to be taken, it is **YOUR** responsibility to inform fellow walkers.

## ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

**LEADERS** reserve the right to change the activity route on the day depending on prevailing conditions and altered circumstances. A walk leader can refuse permission for any person to take part in his/her activity. A list of trip participants must be prepared and the non-member fee (currently \$5) should be collected before the start of the trip. This is a requirement of our insurance policy. Without this list participants may not be covered by insurance.

**EMERGENCY CONTACT PERSONS (ECPS):** Leaders must leave trip details, including a list of participants and their contact numbers with a family member, or if none available, with an ECP. In the event of a delay, the ECP will contact families and decide on the next course of action.

**PARTICIPANTS** (members and visitors) must check with the leader that their fitness and experience suit the walk.

Follow the leader's instructions at all times. Pay own ambulance costs – insurance is recommended (but accidents are rare).

**BOOKINGS:** If you intend participating in any of the activities listed below you are required to personally speak to the Leader **no later** than the **Wednesday** prior to a **day** activity or **7 days** prior to an **overnight** activity or unless otherwise indicated. SMS bookings are not appropriate. **Please be aware that leaders have the right to decide the size of the group they will accept for their activities. Activities may become fully subscribed before the general cut-off date. By contacting the leader early you may avoid missing out.**

**FIRST AID KITS:** are to be taken by leaders on each walk.

**BIVY BAGS:** The club has bivy bags available for activities where extreme cold may be an issue.



## GRADING

### Grade 1

(**Easy**) Opportunity for large number of participants, including those with reduced ability to walk/cycle on well-marked and even formed tracks. **Formed tracks** may have a few steps. Should not be steep. Suitable for beginners. Distance should not exceed about 10km.

### Grade 2

(**Easy-Medium**) Easy activity, mostly on tracks of low gradient. Opportunity to walk/cycle easily in natural environments on well-marked tracks. Tracks should not be steep. Distance should not exceed about 15km.

### Grade 3

(**Medium**) Medium activity with some hilly sections and/or rougher terrain. Opportunity to walk/cycle on defined and distinct tracks with some steep sections requiring a moderate level of fitness. Suitable for fit beginners. Distance should not exceed about 20km.

### Grade 4

(**Medium-Hard**) Steeper, rougher terrain and may have off-track sections (no more than one quarter of the walk) or a longer distance track walk. Opportunity to explore and discover relatively undisturbed natural environments mostly along defined and distinct tracks. Tracks can be steep. There may be short sections of rock scrambling involved. Leaders should have map reading abilities and/or ability to use a compass. Distance depending on circumstances. Not suitable for most beginners.

### Grade 5

(**Hard**) Off-track or difficult terrain. Opportunity for walkers with advanced outdoor knowledge and skills to find their own way along often indistinct tracks or off track in remote locations. May include steep sections of unmodified surfaces. There may be rock scrambling, creek walking and crossing involved. Distance should not exceed 30km, but may be short and difficult. Not suitable for beginners.

### Grade 6

(**Very Hard**) Strenuous off-track walk or very long distance. Opportunity for highly experienced walkers to exploratory remote and challenging natural areas without reliance on managed tracks. Terrain may be steep, uneven and no track. There may be rock scrambling, creek walking and crossing involved. Distance covered is unlimited, but may be short and difficult. Only for experienced walkers and not suitable for beginners.

**Exploratory** Is unknown to leader and while every effort has been made to grade the activity appropriately, there may be some unexpected aspects which may increase the difficulty of the walk.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

**Please click on the following events website for the latest events on offer from BBC**

<https://borderbushwalkingclub.com.au/events/>

**Disclaimer** All statements and opinions expressed in articles published in 'Footprints' are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editor, the Committee or members of the Border Bushwalking Club.